THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Journalist in question lodged a complaint with the local police that she had been abused and manhandled with intent to outrage her modesty and wrongfully confined by some members of the management of Times of India. She had further complained that the articles kept in the car had been stolen by the accused persons.

(c) A criminal case has been registered and put to investigation.

Appointments on Compassionate Grounds

1638. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARM. Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases of appointments on compassionate grounds are pending in the Department of Rural Development;

(b) if so, the number of cases which are pending since December, 1996 till date;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when all the cases would be settled?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) and (b) At present only one case of appointment on compassionate grounds in the Headquarters office of this Ministry proper and 11 cases in the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, an attached office of this Ministry are pending since December, 1996.

(c) and (d) The above cases could not be settled due to non-fulfilment of prescribed conditions e.g. availability of vacant posts under the prescribed quota for making such appointments etc.

Implementation of National Family Benefit Scheme and National Maternity Benefit Scheme

1639. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Family Benefit Scheme and National Maternity Benefit Scheme are not being properly implemented in certain States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other action proposed to ensure national minimum standards by all the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: (a) to (c) The National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) were launched as Centrally sponsored schemes with effect from 15th August, 1995.

These were new schemes and hence a lot of ground work and publicity was required throughout the country. The State Governments took considerable time in grounding the programme and completing procedures and formalities. Releases of funds during 1995-96 under NFBS and NMBS amounted to Rs. 105 crores and Rs. 58.7 crores respectively, which was 68% and 67% respectively of the Budget Allocation, Releases under NFBS and NMBS during 1996-97 were Rs. 106.9 crores and Rs. 67.6 crores respectively, which was more or less the entire provision available for the year. However, expenditure reported by the States was at a lower level. This indicates that implementation of these two schemes has to significantly improve.

The Ministry has taken several steps such as meetings with State Ministers in charge of NSAP, individual review meetings with the State Secretaries, discussions on perceived impediments to successful implementation of the schemes in the Central Advisory Committee on NSAP and special publicity campaigns.

Letters have also been addressed to Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of the States which have been found to lag behind. State Governments have also been requested to give wide publicity to these schemes and improve the implementation. Such efforts will be continued. Stapping up the publicity campaign through media and other means, continuous monitoring of the process of implementation and frequent discussions with State Governments at various levels and simplification of procedures are some of the steps proposed for effective implementation of the scheme and to ensure national minimum standards by all the State Governments.

उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अधीन निधियां

1640. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में पंचायत वार बिखरी हुई और कम आबादी होने के कारण जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अन्तर्गत पंचायतों को दी जाने वाली राशि इतनी कम है कि उससे कहीं भी किसी भवन का निर्माण नहीं किया जा सकता;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या मंत्रालय जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अधीन पृथक मानदंड निर्धारित कर पर्वतीय इलाकों में पंचायतों को अधिक निधियां प्रदान करने का प्रावधान करने का विचार रखता है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो कब तक; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री (श्री किंजरापु येरन्नायडु): (क) जवाहर रोजगार योजना की निधियों का जिले से ग्राम पंचायतों को आबंटन करने के लिए मानदंड बनाते समय यह प्रावधान किया गया है कि कम आबादी अर्थात् 1 हजार से कम आबादी वाली ग्राम पंचायतों को 1 हजार के बराबर माना जाए। तथापि, आबंटन निधि की उपलब्धता के आधार पर किया जाता है।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) और (घ) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Action Plan for Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme

1641. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments have asked the State Government to prepare a concrete action plan to merit Central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP);

(b) the total outlay proposed for the year 1997-98 for the purpose;

(c) whether any requisition has been received from the state Government of Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard and the fund sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh water supply scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total outlay approved under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 1126.90 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Against the proposal of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for a sum of Rs. 171.86 crore, the allocation approved so far is Rs. 122.78 crore.

Million Wells Scheme in Orissa

1642. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main objective of the Million Wells Scheme and the States where the scheme has been introduced so far;

(b) whether the scheme has been implemented in Orissa;

(c) if so, the coverage under the scheme and the number of beneficiaries under the scheme in that State; and

(d) the details of the steps proposed to be taken to expand the Million Wells